

MILLWORK



May-June, 2007

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What's News?

Hanford Mills Museum is gearing up for a great season. Don't forget that you can experience the "power of history" by touring the working Mill, or by participating in the interactive activities offered during the Museum's events and workshops. We offer members and friends a variety of unique opportunities to explore the power of history at work! Celebrate and explore the rich history of the Mill at one of the Museum's engaging events:

On **Sunday, May 27th** visitors can say they "**Saw It**" at **Hanford Mills Museum!** Watch over 200 years of sawing history come to life – human-powered pit sawing, a water-powered circular sawmill, a modern gasoline-powered portable sawmill, and steam-powered vintage woodwork- ing machines will be in operation.

Celebrate **Independence Day (Wednesday, July 4th)** with a day full of old-fashioned family fun! Enjoy live music by Hilton Kelly and the Sidekicks, a catch and release fishing derby for kids, frog jumping contests, tug of war, games, homemade ice cream, and steam power, too.

On **Saturday and Sunday, September 8th & 9th**, don't miss the chance to see old time engines of all shapes and sizes at work, and celebrate antique gas & steam power at Hanford Mills Museum's annual **Antique Engine Jamboree**. View scores of antique engines throughout the site - dozens will be running and "doing" things! Visit the Museum's steam boiler, and watch the steam engine power the historic machinery.

The Museum's **Miller's Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 7th**, will celebrate ingenuity and industriousness, and explore the skill of craftspeople, farmers, and agricultural processors at work. The Museum will demonstrate its grist mill, fire-up the steam boiler, and show-off other industrial and agricultural machinery and processes.

Don't forget that Hanford Mills Museum is one of only a handful of operating water powered and steam powered mills in the country. It is a wonderful place to experience the power of history.



Check Out our New Look!

Besides all the work we did this winter getting ready for the Winter Ice Harvest event and the 2007 summer season, we were also working on the Hanford Mills Museum website. If you have internet access visit our site at www.hanfordmills.org and see what changes we've made.

We've added more, including calendars and a map of the historic site with information about the site. We added a way for you to update your membership online, make donations, and sign up for workshops.

In the coming months we will continue to add information and a New York State Council on the Arts grant will allow us to upgrade our on-line education information and activities. So visit regularly and see how we are doing. And please let us know if you have any suggestions.



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Liz Callahan

Notes from the Curator

by Suzanne Soden

At Hanford Mills we save and interpret the history of rural industries, milling, agricultural, domestic life, and the people involved. It is a way of life that has rapidly disappeared during the last century. We save this heritage by collecting, maintaining, and preserving the material culture (objects) that people used. It is a heritage we take pride in preserving, so when flooding hit the Mill last June, it was devastating to see these objects and buildings in the path of destruction. The flood damaged and destroyed many objects, while some were lost in the raging water. Once the flood recovery effort began in the days following the flood, the objects became a priority.

After surveying the overall damage, we decided to begin with the objects in the mill basement. These included tool handles, pulleys, belts, barrels, engines, turbines, and a vast number of other machinery. Since most of the objects, including the mill itself, are made from wood, mold was the number one issue that we had to deal with. Wood is composed of cellulose, a molecule with an affinity for water, and therefore it is very porous and vulnerable to humidity. Water and humidity causes wood to swell and get spongy, which allows mold to grow. Since the flood water already saturated the artifacts, first we washed off the contaminated water and mud. Then, we transported all the objects



In the first days after the flood, we weren't sure if we should introduce moldy objects into the Hardware Store, so we did the first cleaning outside under a tent. We discovered, though, that we needed to control the surrounding humidity, and we could only do that in a building.

Cleaning moldy artifacts, like this belt, required protective mask and gloves so staff would not suffer any ill effects from the mold. We bet last year's summer intern, Sarah Benway, never imagined she'd be down on her hands & knees scrubbing industrial belting.



that we could lift and move, to the Hardware Store where a de-humidification room was crated to bring the moisture out of the objects. Once the objects dried-out, the tedious process of cleaning began. This included using soft bristled brushes to remove the dirt and grime. Then all the artifacts were carefully and slowly vacuumed to remove excess dirt and mold spores.

Objects that were too large and heavy to move from the Mill, such as the grain separator and lathe, along with the mill building itself, had to be cleaned in place. Once we removed all the rocks, silt, and debris left by the flood, we washed the Mill floors to get the contaminated water out. Since the mill is not temperature or humidity controlled, drying out the building and remaining objects was harder. We brought in as many fans as we could to get the air circulating. Also, we had to be aware of the humidity levels outside. On days when the humidity was high, we would close the doors and windows, and on days of low humidity we opened the mill up to get the air circulating. The process of dusting and vacuuming then continued with every object, including all the machinery, in the mill basement and on the building itself. Mold did start to grow inside the mill, but we were able to get it under control. In the Mill race, the area under the

Continued on page 4

Up-Coming Special Events

SAW it! at Hanford Mills - Sunday, May 27
 See ad at left → → → → → → → →

Meredith Dairy Fest - Sat. & Sun., June 9-10
 Visit Hanford Mills Museum's booth at the festival.

Fathers' Day - Sunday, June 17
 Bring Dad to visit and tour the museum site. Dads admitted free.

Independence Day Celebration - Wed., July 4
 Old-fashioned fun! Visit with President Teddy Roosevelt, enjoy tours, kids' fishing derby, frog jumping contests, games, ice cream and live music.

Summer Apprentice Workshop - July 16-19
 A summer history day camp for children ages 8 to 13. 9:00-3:00 daily. \$85 per child for non-members, or \$70 per child for members. Pre-registration required. Call for application.

Antique Engine Jamboree - Sept. 8-9
 Don't miss this chance to see old time engines of all shapes, sizes, and power at work, and to celebrate antique gas and steam power at the Museum.

SAW IT!

Free Event
at Hanford Mills

A celebration of wood in all its forms!
 Sunday, May 27, 2007 - 10 am to 5 pm

With Special Concert*
 by **Dave Ruch**

1 pm to 2 pm
 Listen to the songs
 of New York State Logging
 & learn their stories.

Demonstrations:

- * Pit Sawing
- * Modern Logging Skills
- * Historic Sawmill
- * Hand Hewing of Logs
- * Modern Band Sawmill
- * Woodcarving

Hands-on Activities for Kids & Adults. Try:

- * Cross-cut Sawing
- * Plant Walk (2pm)
- * Nailing Races
- * Nature Games
- * Crafts & Scavenger Hunt !!!

*This program, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through the support of the New York Council for the Humanities' *Speakers in the Humanities* program.



Spring-Summer Workshops

Upcoming Workshops:

Advanced Wood Carving ~ August 4-5, Cook Stove Cooking ~ August 18, Applique Quilting ~ October 6, Timber Framing ~ Date TBA, Woodlot Management ~ Date TBA (A brochure with more information will come out soon.)

Send in the form at right and the registration fee to reserve a space today.

Return registration & fee to:
 Hanford Mills Museum, P.O. Box 99,
 East Meredith, NY 13757
For more information:
 Call 1-800-295-4992 or E-Mail
 hanford2@hanfordmills.org

Lace Making: Tatting [TL-1] - June 23 - 1 pm to 4 pm
 Beginners will be introduced to tatting, the art of making lace using a shuttle & knotted thread.
Fee: \$25 non-members, \$22 museum members, (take \$5 off if you bring your own shuttle).



Beginning Wood Carving [WC-1] - June 30 - July 1 - 9am to 5pm
 Beginners will be introduced to the art of wood carving. You don't need tools.
Fee: \$75 non-members, \$67 museum members, wood included. Bring your own lunch - soda & water will be provided.

2007 Spring-Summer Registrations

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____



Workshop Number _____ Fee _____

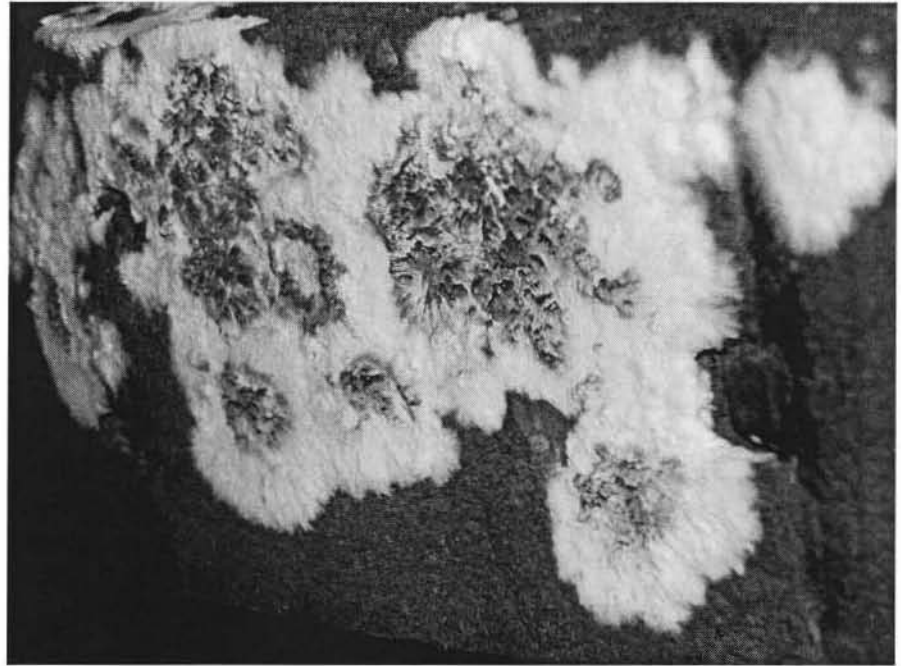
*Don't forget your member's discount!

TOTAL FEE* _____

Curator - Con't from page 2
 building where the water flows from the waterwheel to the tail race, it was harder to dry because of the constant moisture. It was the area most effected by mold growth. Here we decided to use a bleach solution to kill the mold, then we vacuumed the entire area to remove the mold spores.

With the help of countless volunteers, we were able to preserve a large and important part of our collection and the mill itself. Still the job is not finished. We were unable to clean all the damaged objects before the winter months arrived and it became too cold to work in the unheated buildings. This summer the staff will focus on cleaning all the objects which were submerged by flood waters in the basements of the Feed Mill and John

Hanford House. Since most of these artifacts are metal, mold growth is not as much of a problem. However, it is still important to clean and preserve artifacts in these locations for future generations to enjoy.



The mold that grew under the Mill looks like something from a horror film. It took bleach to kill it.

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